

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with James Piotrowski on 11/17/2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the Abstract:

Replace the Abstract with the enclosed Abstract (see below).

In the claims:

In claim 1, line 10; insert the word --the-- between the words "and" and "application".

In claim 1, line 13; insert the phrase --first endless-- between the words "the" and "drive".

In claim 1, line 15; replace the word "an" with --the--.

In claim 1, line 19; insert the word --the-- between the words "and" and "application".

In claim 1, line 20; insert the phrase --first endless-- between the words "the" and "drive".

In claim 1, line 30; replace the word "a" with --the--.

In claim 1, lines 31-32; insert the phrase --endless-- between the words "second" and "drive".

In claim 8, line 3; replace the word "fasteners" with --fastener--.

In claim 70, line 7; insert the word --spaced-- between the words "two" and "supports".

In claim 70, line 7; insert the phrase --coating conveyor-- between the words "the" and "drive".

In claim 70, line 8; insert the word --spaced-- between the words "two" and "supports".

In claim 70, line 17; insert the word --the-- between the words "and" and "application".

In claim 70, line 25; insert the word --spaced-- between the words "two" and "supports".

In claim 70, line 26; insert the phrase --two spaced-- between the words "the" and "supports".

In claim 74, line 6; insert the word --spaced-- between the words "two" and "supports".

In claim 75, line 1; insert the phrase --two spaced-- between the words "conveyor" and "supports".

In claim 75, line 2; insert the phrase --two spaced-- between the words "conveyor" and "supports".

In claim 76, line 1; insert the phrase --two spaced-- between the words "conveyor" and "supports".

In claim 76, line 2; insert the phrase --two spaced-- between the words "conveyor" and "supports".

Cancel claims 78-81.

2. Claims 1, 3-8, 12, 20, 25, 28 and 70-77 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record does not disclose or suggest an apparatus for the application of a composition to a fastener having an externally threaded stem or shank comprising the combination of the elements as claimed in claims 1 or 70, such as a coating station or section, a curing or irradiation section or station and the type of the coating and the curing conveyors each comprising a rail/rails and a first endless drive element, wherein the fastener stem spans the rail/s and is rotated over the rail/s and under the drive element; or the coating and the curing conveyors each comprising two spaced supports defining a fastener feed plane and a conveyor drive element; wherein the fastener shank can be disposed between the two spaced support and the drive element and the fastener can be rolled on the two supports by contact with the conveyor drive element.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YEWEBDAR T. TADESSE whose telephone number is (571)272-1238. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nadine Norton can be reached on (571) 272-1465. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Yewebdar T Tadesse/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1792

Abstract of the invention

An apparatus (1) for the application of a composition curable by irradiation to a fastener (2) having a conveyor (3) for conveying fasteners to an application station (5); an application station (10) comprising an applicator from which the composition is dispensed. The conveyor rotates the fasteners past the applicator for application of composition. The same or another conveyor (8) conveys the fasteners to an irradiation station (10) and rotates the fasteners for irradiation thereof. The irradiation station irradiates and thus cures the composition applied to each fastener .

Application Number**Application/Control No.**

10/527,152

Examiner

YEWEBDAR T. TADESSE

**Applicant(s)/Patent under
Reexamination**

HALLER ET AL.

Art Unit

1792